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selection—this breeder's view of history as one might call it" Dr. Woods proposes the phrase "gametic interpretation of history". "The true interpretation of history must hinge upon the gametes" (or germ-cells) "and the laws of history will be found to be but a part of the laws which govern all organic life" (p. 303).

Dr. Woods's book is one of marked originality and of confident tone. It will probably provoke the historian, as every other "philosophy" of history has done, to repeated dissent, to frequent interrogation. He will regard this interpretation of the development of Europe during several centuries as pronounced over-simplification. The monarchs may be the result of the pedigrees—we will leave that to the proper authorities to decide—but if they are and if they are vastly superior to other men does it follow that the "conditions are the result of the monarchs"?

Again, probably most historians will regard Dr. Woods's method of dividing up these centuries into little sections, according to the length of the reigns, as artificial, and any attempt to grade them as if they were distinct units, as if they did not fuse and blend into each other, is a dubious proceeding. "The conditions of one reign do not sensibly influence the conditions of the next" is one of the hazardous assertions of this book (p. 249).

In reading this volume one inevitably wonders what Dr. Woods will do with Napoleon, "the most entirely known as well as the ablest of historic men", as Lord Acton says. Well, he adopts him! "Even Napoleon belongs in part to royalty, since the great *parvenu* augmented the strength of royalty inasmuch as he became royal and allied his family with royalty" (p. 261). This is quite in the vein of Napoleon himself, who was wont to assert that his *coups d'état* and plebiscites were in the interest of the Republic.

Of course, in a period of monarchical government monarchs exerted an influence. But that they exerted the overwhelming influence here indicated, that they "caused the conditions", or that they were in any great number the able men our author is inclined to think them would probably not be readily accepted by historians, at least without far greater proof than is vouchsafed. One would the more readily incline offhand to agree with Gibbon, who passed many of them in review and who expressed the opinion that "the generality of princes, if they were stripped of their purple and cast naked into the world, would inevitably sink to the lowest rank of society without a hope of emerging from their obscurity". Gibbon may have been unduly pessimistic but at least he was an accomplished interpreter of history and a connoisseur in monarchs.

CHARLES DOWNER HAZEN.

The Municipalities of the Roman Empire. By JAMES S. REID, Litt.D., Professor of Ancient History, University of Cambridge. (Cambridge: University Press. 1913. Pp. xv, 548.)

THIS volume is the product of a course of lectures originally delivered in the University of London, and afterward at the Lowell Institute,

Boston, and in Columbia University, New York. The object of the work is "to provide students with a survey of the Roman Empire, regarded in one of its most important aspects, that of a vast federation of commonwealths, retaining many of the characteristics of the old so-called 'city-state'". In the opinion of the author the teaching and the writing of Roman history have concentrated attention on the province to the neglect of the municipality. He believes, further, "that the residuary impression of the ancient world left by a classical education comprises commonly the idea that the Romans ran, so to speak, a sort of political steam-roller over the ancient world".

It would be unjust, however, to writers and teachers of Roman history to allow all these declarations to remain unchallenged. There is a goodly number of works on Roman history and institutions from which we may learn that the province was little more than an aggregate of states; and certainly Seeck, for example, in his *Geschichte des Untergangs der Antiken Welt*, has preceded Professor Reid in giving due prominence to the municipia. Furthermore, it has been widely known, written, and taught that, far from enforcing a steam-roller policy, Rome preferred as a rule to leave local institutions much as she found them. Whatever, too, may be the state of instruction in England, American teachers for many years have been treating of the municipalities in the light in which Professor Reid understands them. One prominent thesis of his work, however, that the empire was "a vast federation of commonwealths", though several times repeated (*cf.* p. 44), remains unproved.

After an introductory chapter the author proceeds to trace the history of the town in Italy from the earliest times known to the archaeologist. Next, having given several pages to the early growth of the city of Rome, he describes the expansion of her power over Italy in so far as it affected the cities, whose history he then follows to the end of the republic. Especial attention is given to the changes in the municipia effected by Gaius Gracchus, Sulla, and Caesar. The so-called *Lex Julia Municipalis*, he seems to conclude, is not the work of Caesar but "three portions of three different laws", put together, for some unknown reason, by the citizens of Heraclea. Possibly the author might gain something from the sober treatment of this subject by E. Pais, *Circa l'Età e la Natura della 'Lex Latina di Eraclea'* (Rome, 1911).

For the imperial period Professor Reid divides the empire into great sections, or groups of provinces, and follows each section separately from beginning to end. In view of the multitude of municipal units under investigation, a treatment of the kind, though the opposite of synthetic, seems unavoidable. Some degree of unity, however, is added by the chapters on Internal Administration (XIII.), The Process of Decay (XIV.), and Social Aspects (XV.). The volume closes with an excellent index.

There can be no doubt that the book is the result of great industry, and that it makes available for the first time in English an enormous

mass of information on the municipalities. The effect will be to add interest to these most vital elements of imperial life, and for this reason the author deserves our thanks.

The value of the work, however, is greatly lessened by defects in its preparation. One serious fault is the intolerable style. The following is a characteristic passage (p. 476) :

An interesting general regulation was established by the *senatus-consultum Hosidianum* of the year 56 A. D., which checked the destruction of buildings in the municipalities without provision being made for their reconstruction. In the fundamental law of Tarentum there is a provision that no structure is to be pulled down excepting for the purpose of replacing it by a better, without the permission of the Roman senate, and if this rule is violated, anyone may sue the offender for the value of the building, which will be forfeited to the municipality.

Worse than the long, rambling structure of these sentences is the fact that phrases and subordinate clauses are misplaced, to the confusion of the thought.

A defect perhaps even more serious than obscure, misleading phraseology is the total absence of references to sources and authorities. The idea that students are to receive in open-mouthed awe the teachings of the infallible master, unsupported by visible evidence, has long been obsolete, at least in America. In our universities one of the chief aims of instruction is to prepare the student to make his own independent way among authorities and sources. For "the higher teaching of students", therefore, the volume in its present condition will be of little service. The same absence of evidence, while depriving the book of nearly all its value as a work of reference or as a help to scholars, makes it extremely difficult to estimate the author's accuracy of statement or soundness of interpretation. His ability as a scholar is undoubted; and yet a careful examination of certain chapters has convinced the reviewer that the word of the author cannot be considered so authoritative as to need no basis of evidence. If, however, Professor Reid will prepare a new edition in more precise and intelligible language and with full references to his sources of information, he will do a great service to scholarship and to higher education in the field; otherwise the work will have to be done by someone else.

GEORGE WILLIS BOTSFORD.

Gnostiques et Gnosticisme: Étude Critique des Documents du Gnosticisme Chrétien aux II^e et III^e Siècles. Par Eugène de Faye, Directeur d'Études à l'École Pratique des Hautes Études. [Bibliothèque de l'École des Hautes Études, Sciences Religieuses, vol. 27.] (Paris: Ernest Leroux. 1913. Pp. ii, 480.)

M. FAYE's intention was not to investigate the origins of Gnosticism or to construct its total history. He has undertaken a critical study of the documents. Since the accounts in the Church Fathers are notoriously prejudiced and distorted, he will rely primarily on surviving fragments